

Calendar of Featured Guests

Nov 21 - Lynn Haldeman

Dec 19- LaVerne Morris, Wayne Nelson & Lonnie Lembke

Jan 16 - TBA

Please let me know if you hear of any interesting players as possible future guests. Thanks - Glenda McLean - gmmaccord18@q.com

Accordion Events

June 06 - 11, 2010

RCAC Accordion Camp
Silver Falls State Park, OR

If anyone who attended the August RCAC picnic at Leta's house left behind a gray Samsonite metal folding chair, please contact Leta Bunnell (503) 266-1885.



Ann Heinrichs

Correction

I mistakenly published the wrong photo on the front page of last month's issue of this newsletter. The narrative relating to Ann Heinrichs (pictured left) was correct; however, I associated it with a photo of Colleen Halverson (pictured right). I apologize for the confusion. - Steve Knapke



Colleen Halverson

History of the Song "WE GATHER TOGETHER"

Not too many years ago teachers would lead their students in the great ecumenical Thanksgiving hymn, "*We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing*;" however, its mention of God makes it practically "verboten" in schools today. To appreciate this hymn, it is necessary to know its historical background. With the exception of Native Americans, we're all the descendants of those who came to the New World from somewhere else. So too, it turns out, did "*We Gather Together*," whose origins are Dutch and speak of religious persecution that predates the first Thanksgiving.

The melody can be traced back to 1597 and is probably older than that. It started out as a folk song and was transformed into a hymn about overcoming religious oppression. For many years Holland had been under the scourge of Spain. In 1576, Antwerp was captured and sacked by Spanish armies. Nine years later, it was captured again by the Spanish and all of the Protestant citizens were exiled. Many other Dutch cities suffered similar fates. On January 24, 1597, Prince Maurice of Orange defeated the Spanish occupiers of a town in what is now the Netherlands at the Battle of Turnhout. Dutch Protestants--who were forbidden from practicing their religion under Catholic King Philip II of Spain--celebrated the victory by borrowing the familiar folk melody and giving it new words. Its first appearance in print was in a 1626 collection of Dutch patriotic songs, "Nederlandsch Gedencklanck."

In 1648, the Spanish endeavors to control Holland were finally destroyed beyond recovery. These historical events can be seen from the references within the hymn's text, that God will continue to defend:

- "*The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing*," (in first stanza)
- "*so from the beginning the fight we were winning*," (in second stanza)
- "*and pray that Thou still our defender will be*." (in final stanza)

It's possible that English Pilgrims in exile in Holland (the only place in Europe where they could worship freely) might have been familiar with the tune. Some of them spoke Dutch, attended Dutch churches and even became Dutch citizens. But to the Pilgrim mind set this tune would have been a secular song as it wasn't the direct word of the Bible, which meant they would not have sung it at church. The Pilgrims, like the Dutch Calvinists, sang only Psalms in worship and then without musical accompaniment or even harmony which they considered "man glorifying in man's art." They saw any song except a Psalm as a violation of the commandment against idolatry.

How did this song get to America? Two answers:

First: Dutch settlers brought this tune with them to the New World, perhaps as early as the 1620s, and it stayed alive in the Dutch-American community throughout the centuries. In 1937, when the Christian Reformed Church in North America--a denomination that began with Dutch immigrants who sang only Psalms--made the then-controversial decision to permit hymns to be sung at church, "*We Gather Together*" was chosen as the opening hymn in the first hymnal.

Second: Another answer has to do with Viennese choirmaster Eduard Kremser, whose arrangement of "*We Gather Together*" was published in Leipzig, Germany, in 1877. Theodore Baker, an American scholar studying in Leipzig, translated the hymn into English in 1894 as a "prayer of Thanksgiving" to be sung by a choir. According to the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada this tune first appeared in an American hymnal in 1903. Over the next three decades it showed up in an assortment of hymnals in the Northeast and Midwest and in school songbooks. Its "big break" came in 1935 when it was added to the national hymnal of the Methodist-Episcopal Church.

Its association with Thanksgiving helped popularize the hymn, as did the country's experience in World War I and even more so in World War II, when we started to see ourselves in this hymn. The "the wicked oppressing" verse found in the tune would have resonated with Americans engaged in the fight against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

"*We Gather Together*" has all the elements that make a hymn great. It has an easy melody, a catchy opening phrase, and a message that unfolds through the stanzas and carries a congregation with it to an uplifting conclusion: "O, Lord, make us free!" On Thanksgiving Day, that's a sentiment that all Americans, wherever we are gathered, can share.

Lyrics

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.*

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!*

*We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*





Join us for the Rose City Accordion Club's Annual Accordion Camp
Sunday June 06 - Friday June 11, 2010
At the Silver Falls State Park Conference Center, Oregon

with

ILMAR KULJUS and MURL ALLEN SANDERS

plus workshop instructors

GORDON KOHL and BEVERLY FESS

Enjoy sharing music in ensembles, workshops and more in this beautiful setting. Comfortable lodges, maid service and meals are included.

* Enrollment is limited so please reserve your place early. A non-refundable \$50.00 deposit will hold your place. To REGISTER please fill out the form below and send with a check to Rose City Accordion Club c/o 251 McNary Heights Dr. N., Keizer, OR. 97303.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____ Do you have a preferred roommate? _____

Do you have any special dietary needs? _____ Can we give your info to other campers? Y__ N__

How did you hear about this camp? _____

Please circle which of these four packages you desire:

Accordionist - accommodations (all double occupancy), meals, tuition, workshops - - - - - \$515.00

Non-Accordionist - accommodations, meals and concerts - - - - - \$465.00

Accordionist - without accommodations - meals, tuition and workshops only - - - - - \$415.00

Non-Accordionist - without accommodation - meals and concerts only - - - - - \$365.00

(Pay balance by March 1, 2010 / Cancellations- 50% refund after April 1/no refund after May 1)



ROSE CITY ACCORDION CLUB ACCORDION CAMP

*June 06 - 11
2010*

WHO..... anyone who enjoys playing accordion music and learning more about their favorite instrument. Beginners, intermediate students, and advanced players will enjoy this camp and come away with new skills. To participate in the orchestras, which are the heart of camp, players must be able to read music.

Spouses and guests can attend at a reduced fee. They are welcome to observe all activities or enjoy the area's renowned hiking trails, bicycling, horseback riding, and swimming, or just relax and take in the scenery. The town of Silverton, just 20 minutes away, offers a wide array of unique shops as well as the state's botanical showcase, The Oregon Garden.

WHAT..... orchestra participation is the focus of camp. Attendees participate in one of two accordion ensembles, each comprised of approximately 20-25 players. Conductors are experienced accordion teachers with extensive backgrounds in conducting accordion orchestras. Several songs are arranged for each orchestra, usually in four parts. Each group practices three hours each day and both perform their numbers at a public concert on the final night of camp. Parts vary in level of difficulty and players are matched to parts that are challenging and fun.

During the half-days they are not in orchestra practice, participants have the opportunity to attend small workshops led by top accordion teachers. Students learn how to embellish their music, entertain audiences, and become more skilled and confident.

WHY..... for the love and enjoyment of accordion music. Students work hard at camp and they also have lots of fun. In the evenings, players take turns performing in the main hall. Solos, duets, and groups of various sizes play ethnic, classical, show tunes, pop, and everything in between. Most evenings end with an informal "everyone's welcome" jam session.

During free time, participants renew old friendships and make new ones. Some of the most memorable performances have resulted from impromptu match-ups that happen on the spot during camp.



WHERE.....at the Conference Center in beautiful Silver Falls State Park, located about 20 miles from Salem east of I-5. The Center is nestled in the foothills of Oregon's Cascade mountain range and the scenery is breathtaking. The cabins are rustic and comfortable, and offer daily housekeeping. The dining hall is known far and wide for its sumptuous meals, including fresh baked cookies and breads daily.



WHEN.....camp is held for five days in the first week in June. Specific dates and other details are provided on the registration form.

Please join us in 2010-reserve your space TODAY!

Just mail the completed registration form and \$50/person non-refundable deposit to Marlene Meissner (address below).

You are encouraged to REGISTER EARLY to ensure your spot. Additional information and details will be mailed to all registrants in early 2010. For more information or a registration form, contact one of the following Rose City Accordion Club members:

Marlene Meissner
RCAC Treasurer
251 McNary Heights Dr. N.
Keizer OR 97303
(503) 463-9909
Marlenem26@msn.com

Steve Knapke
RCAC President
17997 SW 105th Ct
Tualatin, OR 97062
(503) 612-8381
Squeezebox11@verizon.com

For more information about the camp and our club, please visit our WEB Site at:
rosecityaccordionclub.org

Rose City Accordion Club
1546 Willow Avenue
Woodburn, OR 97071

RCAC Contacts / Business Information

<http://www.rosecityaccordionclub.org/>

2009 Officers

President - Steve Knapke
Vice President - Glenda McLean
Secretary - LaVerne Morris
Treasurer - Marlene Meissner

RCAC Band Co-Directors - LaVerne Morris
Wayne Nelson

Mail dues to: Marlene Meissner
251 McNary Heights Drive North
Keizer, OR 97303

Activity Coordinators

Meeting MC - various
Membership - Marlene Meissner
Program - Glenda McLean
WEB Site - Steve Knapke
Newsletter - Steve Knapke

Board Members

Leonard Kosatka
Wayne Nelson
Bob Trojak
George Veenstra
Glad Willie

Steve Knapke/Phone 503-612-8381
email - squeezebox11@verizon.net

Rose City Accordion Club is open to all accordion players, from beginners to professionals, their friends and families, and to anyone who enjoys music. Meetings are held monthly on the third Saturday of each month at the Milwaukie Public Safety Building, SE 32nd and SW Harrison, Milwaukie OR, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

Ad Policy: Any member wishing to place a business card or four-line ad in the newsletter may do so free of charge for three months. After that, the fee is \$5 for two additional months. 2 x 3 ½ ad (Business card size) \$5. ¼ page ad \$10. ½ page ad \$20. Full page ad (8 ½ x 11) \$35.

Annual Dues are \$20 and checks should be sent to the Treasurer RCAC